



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 12 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Michael C. Geraghty
Attorney General
State of Alaska
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5903

Dear Mr. Geraghty:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 2012, following up on the discussion we had at our August meeting regarding cleanup progress at Red Devil Mine (RDM). As I stated during our meeting, I am committed to continuing to work together with the State of Alaska and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on reaching an expeditious cleanup remedy at RDM that will be protective of human health and the environment.

Over the past several weeks, I have met with the Acting Director of BLM, Mike Pool, and exchanged information on the concerns the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state have with the progress of cleanup at RDM. These conversations also afforded an opportunity to discuss potential paths forward, including a possible framework for oversight of BLM cleanup activities at RDM consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

The outcome of these discussions is favorable; there is recognition on the need to have a formal agreement at the site. My next step will be to distribute to you a draft framework that can be used to initiate discussions on the terms of an agreement very shortly. The agreement would establish timelines; provide for EPA and state review of key documents; contain a definitive and transparent dispute resolution process; tribal consultation and provide for community involvement. Additionally, the agreement would include important provisions for state oversight such as the ability of the state to initiate the dispute process.

I appreciate your continued support at RDM and I hope we can continue to work closely together in resolving the issues at the site in order to achieve a timely, efficient and protective cleanup result. I recognize RDM is a complex site with serious contamination issues; please be assured, this site has had, and continues to have my personal attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Mathy Stanislaus", is written over a horizontal line.

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator

cc: Mr. Mike Pool, Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management
Mr. Robert Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, EPA
Mr. Robert Sussman, Senior Policy Counsel, EPA
Ms. Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, EPA
Mr. Dennis McLerran, EPA Region 10 Administrator
Mr. Lawrence Hartig, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Mr. Reggie Cheatham, Director, Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office, EPA
Mr. David J. Kling, Director, Federal Facilities Enforcement Office, EPA
Mr. James Woolford, Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, EPA